Tea Industry in Assam

718. SHRI DWARK NATH DAS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the Tea Industry in Assam is in a critical position;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor, and the action proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) the details of the sick tea gardens in the State; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to revitalise these sick tea gardens?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The gradual increase in the production of Tea in Assam indicates that the Tea industry in Assam is not in a critical position.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) As per the recent survey carried out by the Tea Board there are 47 weak/sick and 5 closed Tea Gardens in Assam.

(d) Revival of the sick tea estates is primarily the responsibility of the respective owners. The Government is operating a number of developmental schemes through the Tea Board for improving productivity. Benefits under these can also be availed of by the owners of the Sick tea estates. Govt. have also asked the Tea Board to motivate private owners of such tea estates to prepare rehabilitation packages and secure loans for revival of their gardens.

Consumer Price Index

719. PROF. (SMT) RITA VERMA:
SMT. MAHENDRA KUMARI:
SHRI MAHESH KANODIA:
SHRIMATI KRISHNENDRA KAUR DEEPA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the figures of consumer price index as on December 31, 191;

(b) the purchasing power of rupee as on the above date; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government to bring down the rate of inflation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) The Consumer price index (CPI) for industrial workers (base; 1982=100) for December, 1991 was 225.

(b) The purchasing power of rupee measured as a reciprocal of the consumer price index for industrial workers (base: 1982=100) was 44 paise in December, 1991.

(c) The Government has taken a number of measures to check the inflationary pressure in the economy. These include: strict fiscal discipline through reduction in fiscal deficit and growth of money supply and bank credit against price-sensitive essential commodities, more effective management of supply and demand of essential/sensitive commodities and strict action against hoarders and profiteers. Incentives are being provided for raising production to ensure medium-term stability in prices.

Commission for handling bulk Fertilisers at Ports

720. DR. VISWANATHAM KANITHI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state: